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PLANNING

news bulletin

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Montana Division of Planning

Dept. of Intergovernmental Relations

A "self-help" program for land use planning is underway at Thompson Falls. Planning board members are gathering field information on housing, parking, utilities, open space, park and recreation, public facilities, etc., with assistance from the Division's Western Field Office.

Montana's tentative allocation of HUD 701 funds for FY 75 is 36% less than the present level of funding. Congressional action reduced the 701 program nationally, which will result in a $246,000 cut in Montana's program.

Missoula County Commissioners set up citizen advisory groups throughout the county and a goals and objectives questionnaire is being prepared. County-wide distribution will be by local 4-H clubs.

Missoula Planning Board staff members have held several meetings in Mineral County to help inform residents of the planning process. The Division's Western Field Office assisted in the preparation of subdivision regulations for Mineral County.

The comprehensive plan for Lolo, Montana, is expected to be adopted this month.

The Planning Division promulgated statewide subdivision rules December 14. The rules, adopted pursuant to the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act, specify requirements with which local subdivision regulations must comply and prescribe uniform standards for survey monumentation and preparation of final subdivision plats and certificates of survey. Approximately 250 persons attended a public hearing November 26 in Helena to hear comments on the rules. Based on the written and oral comments, the Division prepared the final subdivision rules. Also, to assist planning boards and local officials in preparing local subdivision regulations, the Division prepared a set of model subdivision regulations to serve as guide.

County level personal income and employment data is available for the years 1967 through 1971. This information is provided in table form and is available on magnetic tape for computer processing. It was obtained from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Copies of the information can be obtained by sending $3.00 to the Department of Intergovernmental Relations, Research and Information Division, Capitol Post Office, Helena, Montana, 59601.

Do you know anyone who would be interested in getting on the MAILING LIST for the Planning News Bulletin? Can we help you locate a publication? Announce a meeting or other event in the Bulletin? Call Charleen Duke at the Division of Planning or write Division of Planning, Department of Intergovernmental Relations, Capitol Station, Helena, Montana, 59601. (406) 449-3757

A little belatedly--the staff of the Division wishes to extend best wishes to all its readers for a Happy New Year...

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Reorganization of the Department of Intergovernmental Relations affected the Community Development Bureau. Most functions of the former Bureau have been included within the newly established Division of Planning. Harold M. Price, Chief of the former Bureau, has been named Administrator of the new Division.

Price envisions the Planning Division addressing four major areas of activity: state land use planning; local planning assistance; state planning coordination; and subdivision regulation.

Amendments to the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act (SB 208) have been prepared by the Planning Division. Although a number of amendments concern technical areas, it is likely that a proposal to include tracts of 40 acres will generate the most interest. The environmental assessment requirement is also proposed to be modified in order to grant local government more discretion in requiring all or part of the assessment in connection with certain categories of subdivisions.

An Office of Revenue Sharing publication states, "a frequent misunderstanding by units of local government is that their capital expenditures must relate to the priority categories listed under Section 103(a) (1). This is not the case. A capital expenditure may relate to any area of governmental activity." It must, however, be a capital expenditure which, by state and local law, units of local government would be allowed to expend with their own funds. A recent administrative ruling of the office indicates that interest on revenue sharing funds must be used, obligated or appropriated "within 24 months of the end of the entitlement period during which the interest was actually received or credited."

Thompson Falls City Planning Board has petitioned to create a County Planning Board. Appointment of county planning board members is currently underway in Lake County. With the formation of these two boards, 28 counties (50% of the state) will have countywide planning authority.

Beaverhead County Planning Board recently adopted subdivision regulations with technical assistance from the Division of Planning's Western Field Office at Missoula.

The Flathead Areawide Planning Organization has approved the hiring of a Public Involvement Specialist to coordinate public information and assistance with the APO staff efforts.

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